

BRANCHES OF PHILOSOPHY

1. METAPHYSICS:

the theory of reality and the ultimate nature of all things.

The aim of metaphysics is a comprehensive view of the universe, an overall worldview. One part of metaphysics is a field sometimes called ontology, the study of “being,” an attempt to list in order of priority the various sorts of entities that make up the universe.

2. ETHICS:

- **the study of good and bad, right and wrong, the search for the good life, and the defense of the principles and rules of morality.**
- **It is therefore sometimes called moral philosophy, although this is but a single part of the broad field of ethics.**

3. EPISTEMOLOGY:

- **the study of knowledge, including such questions as “What can we know?” and “How do we know anything?” and “What is truth?”**

4. LOGIC (OR PHILOSOPHICAL LOGIC):

- **the study of the formal structures of sound thinking and good argumentation.**

5. COSMOLOGY:

the study of the cosmos or nature of the universe.

6. PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION (OR PHILOSOPHICAL THEOLOGY):

the philosophical study of religion, the nature of religion, the nature of the divine, and the various reasons for believing (or not believing) in God's existence.

POLITICAL (OR SOCIOPOLITICAL) PHILOSOPHY:

- **the study of the foundations and the nature of society and the state; an attempt to formulate a vision of the ideal society and implement ideas and reforms in our own society to better achieve this.**

AESTHETICS (OR THE PHILOSOPHY OF ART):

- **the study of the nature of art and the experiences we have when we enjoy the arts or take pleasure in nature, including an understanding of such concepts as “beauty” and “expression.”**